Assistance to Madhya Pradesh under foodgrains production programme

1058. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh had called a meeting during the month of September 1988 to chalk out a programme for foodgrains production plan in the State;

(b) if so, what were the main features and decisions taken by the State Government to meet the foodgrains production plan; and

(c) whether any Central help has been sanctioned for the food production plan and if so, the amount provided to the State Government so far and to what extent the foodgrains production programme has been working well in the State, and what are the targets and the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The National Rabi Conference was organised on 29th and 30th September 1988 by the Ministry of Agriculture, which, among other State Governments, was also participated by Madhya Pradesh. In this Conference, the strategy to achieve the targets of foodgrains production was discussed. The decisions taken in the Meeting includes the timely and adequate supply of inputs like fertilizer, seed and irrigation water; increased and efficient use of inputs through the adoption of improved crop production technology; and the effective implementation and monitoring of the ongoing foodgrains production programmes. As a sequel to this Conference, detailed planning exercises have been done by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh at District and Block levels.

(c) For the implementation of the various foodgrains oriented programmes with a view to achieve the foodgrains production target of 16.39 million tonnes, an outlay of Rs. 2176.44 lakh has been provided to the State of Madhya Pradesh for 1988-89. A good Kharif harvest is anticipated, however, it is too early to indicate the achievement at this stage.

Trimming of Indian Iron and Steel Co.

1059. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL has decided on trimming of IISCO (Indian Iron and Steel Co.) Units;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether steel production is likely to suffer as a result of trimming of IISCO Units?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) In view of the heavy cash losses due to continued operation of obsolete and uneconomic units such as bessemer converters, IISCO are contemplating phasing out uneconomic units to reduce the cash losses.

(c) As a consequence of implementation of the scheme, ingot steel production will be reduced to 32,000 tonnes/month against the existing average level of around 52,000 tonnes/month.

Flow of work force from India to Gulf countries

1060. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether measures are being taken to regulate the flow of work force from India to Gulf countries and per their requirements in view of the cessation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq;

(b) whether the measures are also being taken to ensure suitable working conditions and adequate payments to the work force which is sent to Gulf countries;

(c) whether India is facing a stiff competition now from other Asian countries in the matter of providing manpower to Gulf countries; and